-2-

Event-Agent (REA) model configured to implement a first object, a second object, and an association between the first object and the second object." (Emphasis added). As amended, the system also includes "a security model configured to implement an association class object for the association between the first object and the second object in the REA model, such that properties of the association class object define security between the first object and the second object." (Emphasis added).

Claim Rejections

In section 4 of the Office Action, claims 1, 3-18, 20-34 and 36-39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Boozer et al. (U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2004/0205355 A1) in view of Colburn et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,173,404). In support of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), the Office Action stated that Boozer et al. (hereafter Boozer) teach "a method/system/computer readable medium for providing Resource-Event-Agent (REA) model based security." More specifically, the Office Action stated that Boozer teach the steps of "[i]dentifying an association between a first object and a second object in an REA model," and "[c]reating an association class for the association between the first object and the second object, the association class defining security between the first object and the second object." As before, the statement that Boozer teach the step of identifying an association between a first object and a second object in an REA model is traversed. The Office Action acknowledges that Boozer does not teach creating an association class object having properties, with the properties of the association class object defining security between the first object and the second object. However, the Office Action instead recites col. 6, lines 42-52 of Colburn et al. (hereafter Colburn) for providing this teaching. The Office Action concludes that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Boozer and Colburn, and that such a combination renders the rejected claims obvious.

In section 6 of the Office Action, the Examiner provided a response to Applicant's previously presented arguments that Boozer does not teach REA models or REA model based security. In responding to the arguments, the Office Action stated that "a recitation of the intended